

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, Main Street, Copmanthorpe

PRESENT

Mr S E Jackson  
Mr M Haigh  
Mr C E Mills  
Mr A P Sykes  
Mr R F Hildreth  
Mr S Barnes  
Mr J Sanderson  
Mr A Percy  
Mr J Bramley  
Mr C Clayton  
Mr R Burniston  
Mr G H Smith  
Mr D Carr  
Cllr J Savage  
Mr D Mackay

The Clerk – Mr W Symons  
Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J B Blacker, Cllr J Galvin, Cllr G Simpson and Cllr C Lewis.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

The Clerk reported about the resignation of Mr G Simpson from the Board. The Clerk will write to Mr G Simpson to thank him for his attendance, input and support for the Boards work.

NEW NOMINATED MEMBER

The Clerk welcomed Mr D Carr as a new Nominated Council representative to his first meeting of the Board.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest related to the items listed on the Agenda. The Clerk further informed Members that the Register of Members Interests was available at the meeting for inspection and update as required.

ELECTION

The Clerk as Returning Officer advised that the new Board had come into place from 1<sup>st</sup> November. An election had not been required as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions on the Board. In view of this all the current Members were re-elected. The Board holding one vacancy. The Clerk will advance inviting potential new members to the next meeting.

ELECTION OF  
CHAIRMAN

The Clerk advised that Members were required to consider nominations and to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Board. The positions are usually for a three year tenure.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr S E Jackson wished to be considered for nomination for the position of Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr C E Mills, seconded by Cllr J Savage and RESOLVED that Mr S E Jackson, be elected as Chairman.

As there were no other nominations Mr S E Jackson was duly elected as Chairman. The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Mr S E Jackson.

ELECTION OF  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr M Haigh informed the meeting that he wished to be considered for nomination for the position of Vice Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr C E Mills, seconded by Mr R F Hildreth and RESOLVED that Mr M Haigh be elected as Vice-Chairman.

As there were no other nominations Mr M Haigh was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

Election Advert

The Clerk informed the Board that the outcome of the Boards election will be advertised shortly in the York Press as required. The Clerk noting the required content which includes the details of the elected Members names and addresses and subsequent high cost to publish.

The Clerk informed Members that the advert was being shared with two other Boards of the Consortium the total cost of which was £2,849. The advert being in the York Press and when shared between three Boards showed a saving over an individual cost of £1,050.

MINUTES OF LAST  
MEETING

It was proposed by Mr A P Sykes, seconded by Mr R F Hildreth and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015, a copy of which had been sent to all Members, be taken as read and approved and that they be forthwith signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk highlighted the planning application raised at the last meeting is included in the planning responses given tabled for this meeting.

There were no further matters arising from the Minutes, which are not covered in the Agenda.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk confirmed no reportable incidents had occurred since the last meeting which would require reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR).

The Clerk further confirmed the Board was updating its 'Health and Safety Policy' with help from the Boards Health and Safety Advisor Mr R Shepherd. It was hoped that progress on this matter can be reported at the next meeting of the Board.

## RATES

The Clerk reported that the rates collected up to the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy -	£150,940.75	(50%)
(b) Direct Levy -	£61,901.32	(99.9%)
	<u>£212,842.07</u>	

The Clerk also advised that the rates collected since the date of the last meeting was the sum of £383.54.

The Clerk reported that final reminders had been sent out. A list of outstanding rate accounts was shown to the Chairman at the meeting.

The Clerk reported a few small rate amounts were outstanding and some overpayments have been made.

## MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Clerk reported that a maintenance report had been circulated with the Agenda prior to the meeting.

The Engineering Assistant ran through the report on the maintenance work the Board had carried out. It being noted the Board had not yet been able to recruit a new Member of the workforce.

### Fleet Foss Work

The Engineering Assistant reported on the progress made on the maintenance work on the Old Fleet Foss. The Environment Agency are likely to fund the work being progressed at the current time.

### Mapping

Mr C Clayton asked for a map to be produced highlighting year on year the reaches where work has been done perhaps on plastic overlays. This being developed to perhaps begin to be able to record sludging frequencies. The Engineering Assistant will look into providing maps of this nature.

### **Bolton Percy Ings Doors**

The Engineering Assistant is looking at the cost of an appropriate arrangement to replace the doors which appear unsatisfactory. He will also investigate if the replacement would be eligible for grant aid.

### **New Member Induction**

Mr C E Mills suggested that the Engineering Assistant should be asked to show the New Member Mr D Carr around his local area of Copmanthorpe. This in particular is intended to highlight the issues relating to the Fleet Foss and its interrelationship with the Boards maintained drains.

### **Hallgarth Close, Ulleskelf**

The Clerk reported that the Board has put this matter in the hands of a solicitor. The solicitor will deal with the Boards correspondence on this matter.

### **Tockwith New Row Flooding**

The Engineering Assistant had prepared and circulated a report on the recent CCTV survey and jetting the Board had carried out funded by North Yorkshire County Council. This report and its findings were discussed at the meeting. It was noted that the location had again flooded over the period of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> August. The report will be utilised by the partners involved to consider what further action can be taken.

The Board asked the Clerk to look into the potential cost of engaging a consultant to consider the wider scope of finding a solution.

### **STAFF**

### **Recruitment – Workforce**

The Clerk reported the Board has advertised for a workforce member and had 90 applicants as a labourer however machine drivers appear in short supply. The 90 had been reduced down for more detailed consideration.

Mr R Burniston suggested that the Board could consider using a local machinery circle as they can provide drivers as well as machines. He will provide the Engineering Assistant with the details.

## Consortium Planning and Asset Officer

The Clerk reported that the Boards new Planning Officer, Mr J Perkins is making good progress and has now completed the training and support in the post provided by Mr P Hey who retired from the position recently.

## Consortium Secretary and Receptionist

The Clerk reported that this post is a job share and the person covering the second part of the week was leaving to return to full time education. The Clerk is in the process of interviewing to find a new recruit for the position. The Board having recruited a new member of staff who had unfortunately resigned this morning after being trained by the Board.

The Clerk informed Members about the Greater Yorkshire Devolution Plan which has been raised. In regard to the York Consortium of Drainage Boards interests this relates to four Lead Local Flood Authorities. These include North Yorkshire County Council, East Riding Of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council and City of York Council. Details of the devolution proposal are available on the internet. This could result in central government funding being devolved to perhaps new regional bodies. The Clerk making Members aware that flood and coastal revenue funding streams possibly could be devolved in these new arrangements which include the Boards Special Levy. The proposals could also have implications to the Environment Agency maintenance revenue funding streams.

The Clerk referred to the model document prepared by the Environment Agency and endorsed by the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA). A copy of this agreement had been circulated with the Agenda for the Boards consideration.

The model document being prepared and agreed as a format to set in place an agreement for five years between an Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency. The document allows an Internal Drainage Board to conduct work on an Environment Agency designated 'Main River.' The document setting in place mechanisms for programmes of work, delegation of powers along with costs and contributions agreed prior to work commencing. This is recorded in Schedule 3 'Form of Schedule for Specific Work or Activity' of the document as and when required.

## GREATER YORKSHIRE DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL

## PUBLIC SECTOR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Members considered the documentation and the potential implication of signing up to the agreement. This along with the fact that the arrangement may assist with progressing works on the Old Fleet Foss.

The Clerk informed the Board that he was reasonably happy with this latest document however earlier documents had put too larger risk on the IDB and had a lack of clarity on responsibility for transfer of 'Main River' powers. In view of this the Clerk had not advanced the document for the Boards agreement earlier.

Mr G H Smith proposed the Clerk is authorised by the Board to initially prepare and submit the relevant documentation and evidence to the Environment Agency. Then when the documentation is agreed, to sign the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement on behalf of the Board with the Environment Agency. This relating to a five year period as prescribed in the document tabled at the meeting.

Mr M Haigh seconded this proposal which was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

#### PRECEPT APPEAL

The Clerk reported submitting the report agreed at the last meeting updating the Boards current position in regard to its precept appeal. The content of which relates to Agency 'Main River' work to which the precept contributes. The Clerk is now making arrangements for a meeting to be held with two representatives of Defra. The intention of the meeting is to review the situation. The meeting has been provisionally organised for 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Boards office. Defra have also requested the attendance of the Agency Area Manager and a representative from the Local Maintenance Operations.

The Clerk further informed that the meeting will include a review of the Precept Appeals also being raised by the Foss (2008) IDB and Ainsty (2008) IDB who are also Member Boards of the York Consortium of Drainage Boards.

#### PLANS

The Clerk referred to the list of Planning Applications commented upon since the last Meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

Members and the Clerk discussed the Boards planning comments and how they were used in the planning process.

**(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)**

## CONSENTS

The Clerk referred to the list of Consents granted since the last Meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

### **(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)**

## BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account and Business Premium Account showing an aggregate credit balance of £420,825.03 with Barclays Bank as at the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £83,480.00. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.3% gross per annum.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £70,000. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.4% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £ 574,305.03.

### **FCIS Guarantee**

The Clerk noted he had been informed that the FCIS Guarantee was being reduced from £85,000 to £75,000 from 1<sup>st</sup> January next year. He further noted that he had been informed by the Beverley Building Society that public funds from any organisation such as a Drainage Board are unlikely to be covered by this arrangement. In view of this he had tried to seek guidance from FCIS but was told to either consult the FCIS website or engage a compliance solicitor for an opinion. In view of this he had raised the matter with ADA and been informed that the advice given is possible but a formal position has not been given.

The Clerk further noted because of the size of the Beverley Building Society and the uncertainty of the FCIS guarantee he had decided not to progress the 12 month account investment.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### **ADA Conference**

The Clerk reported that the ADA London Conference will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London. The conference will be attended by the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that no further significant correspondence had been received by the Board since the date of the last meeting.

ACCOUNTS FOR  
CONFIRMATION

The Clerk referred to the list of accounts paid since the date of the last Meeting which has been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

It was RESOLVED that payment of these accounts be confirmed.

**(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)**

DATE OF NEXT  
MEETING

It was directed that the Annual General Meeting of the Board is due to be held at the Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6.30pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Possible future dates for meetings:

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

ANY OTHER  
BUSINESS

Closure of Meeting

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

**(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)**